

Abstract Of The Disclosure

Apparatus and methods for pumping and oxygenating blood are provided that include a gas removal system. An integrated blood processing unit is
5 provided in which a gas removal/blood filter, pump and blood oxygenation element are mounted within a common housing. The gas removal system includes a sensor mounted on the housing to sense the presence of gas, and a valve is operably coupled to the sensor to
10 evacuate gas from the system when the sensor detects an accumulation of gas.